

18th October 1927.]

A.—(a) (i) Nil.

(ii) 1925–26—Rs. 8,000 in aid of panchayat libraries.

1926–27—Rs. 70,000 as follows:—

Rs. 10,000 in aid of panchayat libraries.

Rs. 56,000 as teaching grant for panchayat schools.

Rs. 24,000 as equipment grant for panchayat schools.

(b) A statement showing the contributions in money made by taluk boards to panchayats is appended.^a

In addition many remunerative institutions such as markets, fisheries, avenues, etc., have been transferred to panchayats by local boards.

Transfer of the control of forests to village panchayats.

* 550 Q.—**MR. G. HARI SARVOTTAMA RAO:** Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government, the hon. the Member for Revenue and the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) how many applications were received from village panchayats asking for the transference of control to them of village forests, from whom and on what dates;

(b) how many such applications have been granted; and

(c) if applications have been refused, what the reasons for such refusals were?

A.—(a) One, from Karkal Panchayat in May 1923.

(b) One.

(c) None has been refused.

Introduction of a Bill to consolidate the Village Panchayat Act and the Village Panchayat Courts Act.

* 551 Q.—**MR. M. A. MANICKAVELU NAYAGAR:** Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government proposed to bring in a Bill to consolidate the Village Panchayat Act of 1920 and the Village Panchayat Courts Act;

(b) if so, why it was shelved; and

(c) whether the Government now propose to bring a Bill to consolidate the said two Acts?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The Government proposed to bring a Bill to amend the Madras Village Panchayat Act, 1920, the main object of which was to enable village panchayats to exercise the functions of a Panchayat Court under the Madras Village Courts Act, 1888. The Bill was published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* on 6th May 1924. Before the Bill was introduced in the Legislative Council the Registrar of Panchayats submitted proposals for further amendments with a request that they may also be incorporated in the Bill. These amendments are now under scrutiny.